

Notice of Public Scoping

The Bureau of Land Management Colorado River Valley Field Office is initiating an environmental assessment (EA) of the North Castle Springs Master Development Plan (NCSMDP) for oil and gas development. The NCSMDP, prepared by Antero Resources Corporation and submitted to the BLM, proposes a 5-year program of oil and gas exploration and development on Federal leases located southeast of the town of New Castle, Colorado.

The plan proposes the development of up to 284 wells from up to 16 locations beginning in the summer of 2010. Associated with these developments would be the construction of up to 10.6 miles of new and upgraded access roads and up to 14.1 miles of new and replacement pipelines. Directional drilling technology would be used to drill the majority of the wells. The enclosed map shows the location of the proposed and existing well pads, access roads and pipelines.

The area proposed for development encompasses approximately 6,524 acres, of which 6,060 acres are characterized by Federal surface and mineral ownership and 464 acres are characterized by private surface and mineral ownership. These lands are located within all or portions of the following legal locations: Sections 7-10 and 15-18, Township 7 South, Range 91 West (T7S, R91W) of the Sixth Principal Meridian. Primary access for the development activities would be County Roads 311 and 335.

The BLM will prepare an EA to disclose the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of the development plan and a No Action alternative. As a starting point in the assessment, the BLM is soliciting input on the issues that will be considered in the preparation of the EA. At this time, the public is encouraged to provide any comments, concerns, or issues they may have with regard to the proposed development plan.

To best facilitate BLM's review and use of comments during the EA process, comments must be received by May 31, 2010. Written comments and questions should be directed to the Colorado River Valley Field Office at 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, CO 81652. Electronic comments may be submitted to gsfomail@co.blm.gov.

Copies of the GGMDP Proposed Action that further detail the proposed oil and gas development are available for review at the BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, Colorado. Digital copies of the GGMDP proposal and project map are available at http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/crvfo/GSFO_MasterPlansOfDevelopment.html.